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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device, comprising:

an adjustable support, defining a concavity, the support comprising a plurality of petals, movable throughout an adjustment range;

at least one inflatable bladder within the concavity; and

a vacuum source in communication with the concavity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein each petal carries an inflatable bladder.

4. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, further comprising a heat source.

5. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 4, wherein the heat source is in thermally conductive contact with the bladder.

6. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 4, further comprising a fluid circulation pathway for circulating a fluid through the bladder.

7. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 6, wherein the heat source is in thermally conductive contact with the fluid so that the fluid heats the bladder.

8. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 6, comprising at least three inflatable bladders, in fluid communication with the circulation pathway.

9. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, further comprising a control for inflating and deflating the bladder in accordance with a predetermined program.

10. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 9 wherein the predetermined program comprises alternating inflation and deflation cycles.

11. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 10 wherein the predetermined program inflates the bladder within the range of from about 2 to about 40 cycles per minute.

12. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 11 wherein the predetermined program inflates the bladder within the range of from about 3 to about 12 cycles per minute.

13. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 10 wherein the predetermined program maintains the bladder inflated within the range of from about 4 to about 8 seconds per cycle.

14. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, wherein the bladder is inflatable from a reduced profile along an axis transverse to the support and an inflated profile along the axis.

15. (Original) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 14, wherein the bladder has a maximum thickness in the inflated profile along the axis within the range of from about .2 inches to about 2.0 inches.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast, comprising:

a frame;

at least ~~one~~ three supports on the frame, having [[a]] first sides for facing in the direction of a patient when in use;

a moveable wall positioned in between the supports and the patient when in use; and

a disposable patient interface positioned between the movable wall and the patient, for contacting the patient when in use.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein the supports are moveable throughout an adjustment range.

19. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 18, further comprising a control, for controlling the adjustment.

20. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 19, wherein the control comprises a rotatable ring.

21. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 18, wherein each support has a proximal end in the direction of the frame, and a distal end in the direction of the patient, and the distal ends form an annular distal limit which is moveable between a first, small diameter and a second, large diameter at the limits of the adjustment range.

22. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 21, wherein the first diameter is within the range of from about 2.5 inches to about 4.5 inches.

23. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 21, wherein the second diameter is within the range of from about 3.5 inches to about 6.5 inches.

24. (Currently Amended) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein the movable wall comprises a wall on an inflatable bladder.

25. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 24, comprising an inflatable bladder carried by each of the supports.

26. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in claim 16, wherein the disposable patient interface comprises a flexible membrane.

27. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in claim 26, wherein the flexible membrane comprises a tubular body having a proximal end with a first diameter and a distal end with a second, larger diameter.

28. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in claim 27, further comprising a releasable connector on the proximal end.

29. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in claim 26, wherein the flexible membrane comprises a low durometer thermoplastic elastomer.

30. (Original) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in claim 16, further comprising a heat source in thermal communication with the movable wall.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Cancelled).

34. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast, comprising:

a frame;

at least one support on the frame, having a first side for facing in the direction of a patient when in use;

a moveable wall positioned in between the support and the patient when in use; and

a disposable patient interface positioned between the movable wall and the patient, for contacting the patient when in use, the patient interface comprising a flexible membrane having a tubular body with a proximal end having a first diameter and a second end having a second, larger diameter, and a releasable connector on the proximal end.

35. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 34, comprising at least three supports.

36. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 35, wherein the supports are moveable throughout an adjustment range.

37. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 36, further comprising a control, for controlling the adjustment.

38. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 37, wherein the control comprises a rotatable ring.

39. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 36, wherein each support has a proximal end in the direction of the frame, and a distal end in the direction of the patient, and the distal ends form an annular distal limit which is moveable between a first, small diameter and a second, large diameter at the limits of the adjustment range.

40. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 39, wherein the first diameter is within the range of from about 2.5 inches to about 4.5 inches.

41. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 39, wherein the second diameter is within the range of from about 3.5 inches to about 6.5 inches.

42. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 35, wherein the movable wall comprises a wall on an inflatable bladder.

43. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 42, comprising an inflatable bladder carried by each of the supports.

44. (New) A device for obtaining an intraductal fluid sample from a non lactating breast as in Claim 34, wherein the flexible membrane comprises a low durometer thermoplastic elastomer.

45. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, further comprising:

a control unit;

a patient interface unit, carrying the adjustable support; and

a control line extending between the control unit and the patient interface unit.

46. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 45, further comprising a closed fluid circulation loop, having a reservoir removably carried by the control unit in communication with the bladder carried by the patient interface unit.

47. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 46, wherein the bladder comprises at least 3 inflatable lobes.

48. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 47, comprising at least 6 inflatable lobes.

49. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 46, further comprising a heat exchange fluid contained within the closed loop.

50. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 47, wherein each lobe has an inflated width of no more than about 3 inches and an inflated length of no more than about 4 inches.

51. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 50, wherein each lobe has an inflated width of no more than about 2 inches and an inflated length of no more than about 3 inches.

52. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, wherein the bladder has an inflated thickness of no more than about 1 inch.

53. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 52, wherein the bladder has an inflated thickness of no more than about 0.5 inches.

54. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 45, further comprising a heat source in the control unit.

55. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 46, further comprising a pump in the control unit.

56. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 55, wherein the fluid circulation loop is positioned such that the pump causes fluid circulation through the loop.

57. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, further comprising a disposable patient interface carried by the adjustable support, for contacting the patient.

58. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 57, wherein the disposable patient interface comprises a flexible polymeric membrane.

59. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 58, wherein the disposable patient interface further comprises a rigid support for maintaining patency under vacuum, attached to the flexible polymeric membrane.

60. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, wherein the proximal cap comprises at least a first retention structure for releasable connection with a complementary second retention structure on a handpiece.

61. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, wherein the retention structure comprises a recess on the proximal cap.

62. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, wherein the retention structure comprises a projection on the proximal cap.

63. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 1, further comprising a central processing unit for controlling the inflatable bladder.

64. (New) A nipple aspirate fluid aspiration device as in Claim 45, further comprising a central processing unit for controlling the inflatable bladder.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicants thank the Examiner for courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Jeremy P. Sanders during the personal interview conducted February 18, 2004. During that interview, Applicants' representative discussed the cited references to Gascoigne, Nordvik, and Silver. Applicants' representative also discussed various possible claim amendments to more fully define over each of those references. However, as indicated during the personal interview, any such proposed amendments to the claims will be pursued in a continuation application, and Applicants are amending the current claims to put each claim in condition for allowance as indicated in the Office Action mailed January 30, 2004.